

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

BIG LOTS, INC., *et al.*,

Debtors.¹

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)

(Jointly Administered)

**NOTICE OF POTENTIAL ASSUMPTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF EXECUTORY
CONTRACTS OR UNEXPIRED LEASES AND CURE AMOUNT**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “**Debtors**”) each filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”) in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “**Court**”) on September 9, 2024.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, on September 9, 2024, the Debtors filed a motion (the “**Motion**”) with the Court seeking entry of an order, among other things, approving (a) procedures for the solicitation of bids (the “**Bidding Procedures**”) in connection with (i) the proposed sale of substantially all of the Debtors’ assets to Gateway BL Acquisition, LLC (the “**Stalking Horse Bidder**”) for approximately \$760 million consisting of \$2.5 million in cash plus the Debt Payoff Amount (as defined in the Stalking Horse APA) and the assumption of certain liabilities, subject to the submission of higher or otherwise better offers, (ii) the Sale Transaction and (iii) the Auction,² (b) the form and manner of notice related to the Sale Transaction, and (c) procedures for the assumption and assignment of Contracts and Leases in connection with the Sale Transaction (the “**Assumption and Assignment Procedures**”).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, on [•], 2024, the Court entered an order (the “**Bidding Procedures Order**”) approving, among other things, the Bidding Procedures, which establish the key dates and times related to the Sale Transaction, the Auction, and the Assumption and Assignment Procedures.

¹ The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors’ corporate headquarters is 4900 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion or the Bidding Procedures, as applicable.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, upon the closing of the Sale Transaction, the Debtors intend to assume and assign to the Successful Bidder(s) the Potential Assumed Contracts. A schedule listing the Potential Assumed Contracts (the “**Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule**”) is attached hereto and may also be accessed free of charge on the Debtors’ case information website located at <https://www.cases.ra.kroll.com/BigLots> or can be requested by email at BigLotsInfo@ra.kroll.com. In addition, the amount necessary to cure any prepetition defaults thereunder (the “**Cure Costs**”), if any, necessary for the assumption and assignment of the Potential Assumed Contracts are set forth on the Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule. ***Each Cure Cost listed on the Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule represents all liabilities of any nature of the Debtors arising under an Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease prior to the Petition Date, whether known or unknown, whether due or to become due, whether accrued, absolute, contingent, or otherwise, so long as such liabilities arise out of or relate to events occurring prior to the Petition Date.***

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NOTICE BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A COUNTERPARTY TO A POTENTIAL ASSUMED CONTRACT. Under the terms of the Assumption and Assignment Procedures, (a) at or prior to the closing of a Sale Transaction, a Successful Bidder may elect, in its sole and absolute discretion, to (i) exclude any Contract or Lease on the Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule (as amended or supplemented) (in which case it shall become an Excluded Contract or Excluded Lease, as applicable), or (ii) include on the Proposed Assumed Contracts Schedule any Contract or Lease listed on the Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule (as amended or supplemented), by providing to the Debtors written notice of its election to exclude or include such Contract or Lease, as applicable, (b) if the Debtors or any Successful Bidder identify during the pendency of the Chapter 11 Cases (before or after the closing of the applicable Sale Transaction) any Contract or Lease that is not listed on the Proposed Assumed Contracts Schedule, and such Contract or Lease has not been rejected by the Debtors, such Successful Bidder may, in its sole and absolute discretion, elect by written notice to the Debtors to treat such Contract or Lease as an Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease, as applicable, and the Debtors shall seek to assume and assign such Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease in accordance with the Assumption and Assignment Procedures, and (c) following the Auction, the Debtors may, in accordance with the applicable purchase agreement, or as otherwise agreed by the Debtors and the Successful Bidder(s), at any time before the closing of the Sale Transaction, modify the previously stated Cure Costs associated with any Proposed Assumed Contract in accordance with the Assumption and Assignment Procedures. The Assumption and Assignment Procedures further provide that any Counterparty whose previously-stated Cure Cost is modified will receive notice thereof and an opportunity to file a Supplemental Assumption and Assignment Objection. **The assumption and assignment of the Contracts and Leases on the Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule is not guaranteed and is subject to approval by the Court and the Debtors’ or Successful Bidder’s right to remove an Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease from the Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule and Proposed Assumed Contracts Schedule.**

Obtaining Additional Information

Copies of the Motion and the Bidding Procedures Order, as well as all related exhibits (including the Bidding Procedures) and all other documents filed with the Court, are available free

of charge on the Debtors' case information website located at <https://www.cases.ra.kroll.com/BigLots> or can be requested by email BigLotsInfo@ra.kroll.com.

Filing Assumption and Assignment Objections

Pursuant to the Assumption and Assignment Procedures, any Counterparty may object to the potential or proposed assumption or assignment of its Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease, the Debtors' proposed Cure Costs, if any, or the ability of a Successful Bidder to provide adequate assurance of future performance (an "**Assumption and Assignment Objection**"). All Assumption and Assignment Objections must (a) be in writing, (b) comply with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Local Rules, (c) state, with specificity, the legal and factual bases thereof, including, if applicable, the Cure Costs the Counterparty believes are required to cure any alleged defaults under the relevant Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease, (d)(i) for objections relating to proposed Cure Costs, be filed no later than **November 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** (the "**Cure Objection Deadline**") and (ii) for all other objections, **November 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** (the "**Assumption and Assignment Objection Deadline**"), and (e) be served on (i) proposed counsel to the Debtors, (y) Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017, Attn: Brian M. Resnick, Esq., Adam L. Shpeen, Esq., Stephen D. Piraino, Esq., Jonah A. Peppiatt, Esq., and Ethan Stern, Esq. (notice.biglots@davispolk.com) and (z) Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP, 1201 N. Market Street, 16th Floor, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Robert J. Dehney, Sr., Esq., Andrew R. Remming, Esq., Daniel B. Butz, Esq., Tamara K. Mann, Esq., and Casey B. Sawyer, Esq. (biglots.mnat@morrisnichols.com), (ii) counsel to the ABL Agent, (y) Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP, Two International Place, Boston, MA 02110, Attn: John F. Ventola, Esq. (jventola@choate.com), Jonathan D. Marshall, Esq. (jmarshall@choate.com), and Jacob S. Lang, Esq. (jslang@choate.com) and (z) Blank Rome LLP, 1201 N. Market Street, Suite 800, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Regina Stango Kelbon, Esq. (regina.kelbon@blankrome.com) and Stanley Tarr, Esq. (stanley.tarr@blankrome.com), (iii) counsel to the Term Agent, (y) Otterbourg P.C., 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10169, Attn: Chad B. Simon, Esq. (CSimon@otterbourg.com), James V. Drew, Esq. (JDrew@otterbourg.com), and Sarah L. Hautzinger, Esq. (shautzinger@otterbourg.com) and (z) Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., 920 N. King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: John H. Knight, Esq. (knight@rlf.com), (iv) proposed counsel to the Committee, (y) McDermott Will & Emery LLP, One Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017, Attn: Darren Azman, Esq. (dazman@mwe.com) and Kristin G. Going, Esq. (kgoing@mwe.com), and (z) Cole Schotz P.C., 500 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1410, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Justin R. Alberto, Esq. (jalberto@coleschotz.com) and Stacy L. Newman, Esq. (snewman@coleschotz.com), (v) counsel to the Stalking Horse Bidder, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, 601 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022, Attn: Christopher Marcus, P.C. (cmarcus@kirkland.com), Douglas A. Ryder, P.C. (douglas.ryder@kirkland.com), and Nicholas M. Adzima (nicholas.adzima@kirkland.com), and (vi) the U.S. Trustee, Caleb Boggs Federal Building, 844 King Street, Suite 2207, Lockbox 35, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, Attn: Linda J. Casey (linda.casey@usdoj.gov) (collectively, the "**Objection Notice Parties**").

Pursuant to the Assumption and Assignment Procedures, objections to the potential assumption and assignment of an Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease by a party whose Contract or Lease is listed on a Supplemental Assumed Contracts Schedule (a "**Supplemental Assumption and Assignment Objection**") with respect to the ability of a Successful Bidder to provide

adequate assurance of future performance or relating to the Cure Costs (to the extent modified from the previously-stated amount) must (a) be in writing, (b) comply with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Local Rules, (c) state, with specificity, the legal and factual bases thereof, and (d) by no later than **14 days from the date of service of such Supplemental Assumption and Assignment Notice**, (i) be filed with the Court and (ii) be served on the Objection Notice Parties.

Objections to the Sale Order, the conduct of the Auction, or the Sale Transaction, if any, must (a) be in writing, (b) state, with specificity, the legal and factual bases thereof, (c) comply with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Local Rules, and (d) by no later than **November 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** (the “**Sale Objection Deadline**”) be (i) filed with the Court and (ii) served on the Objection Notice Parties.

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO TIMELY ASSERT AN OBJECTION

Any Counterparty to a Contract or Lease who fails to timely make an objection to the potential assumption and assignment of such Contract or Lease, the Debtors’ proposed Cure Costs or the ability of the Successful Bidder to provide adequate assurance of future performance on or before the Assumption and Assignment Objection Deadline in accordance with the Assumption and Assignment Procedures, the Bidding Procedures Order, and this Notice (or in the case of a Supplemental Assumption and Assignment Objection, by 14 days from the date of service of such Supplemental Assumption and Assignment Notice) shall be deemed to have consented to the assumption and assignment of such Contract or Lease, including the Cure Costs (if any), set forth on a Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule or a Supplemental Assumed Contracts Schedule, and shall be forever barred from asserting any objection or claims against the Debtors, the Successful Bidder, or the property of any such parties relating to the assumption and assignment of such Contract or Lease, including asserting additional Cure Costs with respect to such Contract or Lease. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in such Contract or Lease, or any other document, the Cure Costs set forth on a Potential Assumed Contracts Schedule or a Supplemental Assumed Contracts Schedule shall be controlling and will be the only amount necessary to cure outstanding defaults under the applicable Assumed Contract or Assumed Lease under section 365(b) of the Bankruptcy Code arising out of or related to any events occurring prior to the Petition Date, whether known or unknown, whether due or to become due, whether accrued, absolute, contingent, or otherwise, so long as such liabilities arise out of or relate to events occurring prior to the Petition Date.

Other Important Dates and Deadlines³

In addition to the dates and deadlines described above with respect to filing Assumption and Assignment Objections, Cure Objections, and Supplemental Assumption and Assignment Objections, note the following important dates and deadlines:

³ The following dates and deadlines may be extended by the Debtors, consistent with the terms of the DIP Credit Agreements, or the Court pursuant to the terms of the Bidding Procedures and the Bidding Procedures Order.

1. **Auction.** In the event that the Debtors timely receive more than one Qualified Bid for Bid Assets, and subject to the satisfaction of any further conditions set forth in the Bidding Procedures, the Debtors intend to conduct an Auction for the Bid Assets. The Auction, if one is held, will commence on **October 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** at the offices of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017.
2. **Sale Hearing.** A hearing to consider the approval of a proposed Sale Transaction will be held before the Court on **November 8, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)**,⁴ or such other date as determined by the Court.

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⁴ This date remains subject to Court approval.

Dated: October 16, 2024
Wilmington, Delaware

MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT & TUNNELL
LLP

/s/ Casey B. Sawyer

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